(b) Does not arise.

(c) The requirement of urea for Rabi 2004-05 crop season has been assessed at 108.35 lakh MT. The total availability for Rabi crops is estimated to be 118 lakh MT including about 11 lakh MT opening stock, 103.5 lakh MT of production and 3.5 lakh MT of imports.

Alternative and unharmful pesticides

†876. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in the manufacturing of alternative and unharmful pesticides in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Registration Committee (RC), constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 has registered several bio-pesticides so that dependence on chemical pesticides is substantially reduced. Besides, low dose and quickly degradable chemical pesticides, like sulfonyl urea compounds, have also been registered. Further, the Registration Committee is encouraging registration of safer formulations of already registered pesticides.

Spurious fertilizers manufacturing units in Punjab

877. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a few units manufacturing spurious fertilizers have been operating in Punjab for the last several years from where spurious and damaged fertilizers were being sent to various parts of the country;

(b) whether some persons have been arrested in this case and if so, the details thereof; and

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†*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*

(c) whether it is also a fact that a Minister of Punjab Government had been monitoring the operation of these units and if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Punjab has reported that recently they have detected a unit in village Ena-Khera, Tehsil Malout, Distt. Muktsar, manufacturing and supplying 'Bone Meal' a fertilizer covered under the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985, without obtaining the Dealer Registration Certificate (DRC)/Memorandum of Intimation, from Director (Agriculture), Punjab under the FCO.

Also, in the past, an enquiry had been conducted by the Vigilance Department, Punjab in respect of six Single Super Phosphate (SSP) manufacturing units located in that State for allegedly claiming concession fraudulently under the concession scheme from Government of India.

(b) FIR No.132, dated 27/10/2004 has been registered under the Police Station Malout, Distt. Muktsar against the above-mentioned unit located in Ena-Khera and three persons have been arrested under Section 7 of Essential Commodities Act (ECA) and subsequently released on bail.

The investigation could not substantiate charges against three SSP units. From one of the units, recovery of Rs.18.35 lakh was effected. Investigation in respect of other three units is in progress.

(c) As per the State Government of Punjab, no Minister of the State Government is involved in the operation of the 'Bone Meal' units.

Phase III clinical trials

878. SHRI K. RAMA MOHAN RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to make Phase III clinical trials mandatory for imported EDNA biotech drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any drug has been identified for clinical trials on recombinant drugs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?